

Western Australian Consumer Representation on the National Mental Health Consumer & Carer Forum (NMHCCF)

The Mental Health Commission, in partnership with Consumers of Mental Health WA (CoMHWA), Carers WA, Helping Minds and Mental Health Matters 2 (Selection Panel) invites applications from consumer representatives for the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum (NMHCCF).

An overview of the work of NMHCCF can be found on their website www.nmhccf.or.au and more specifically in their [Operating Guidelines](#).

The NMHCCF is a key national, independent, mental health consumer and carer voice. Consumer and carer representation at the national level requires specific skills beyond an individual's own personal experiences.

As system advocates, representatives must:

1. Be capable of reflecting the viewpoints and concerns of consumers or carers;
2. Be persons in whom consumers or carers and their organisations have confidence; and
3. Have strong communication links with consumers or carers so that they are able to provide the representation that a diverse consumer and carer community requires including those who can be harder to reach.

NMHCCF members are expected to participate in the NMHCCF by:

- Attending meetings that are currently facilitated online every four to six weeks. Pre COVID-19 restrictions, the NMHCCF met face to face in the Eastern States three times a year (usually March, June and October);
- Actively participating in discussions;
- Contributing ideas and expertise to the development of NMHCCF activities, policy and planning; and
- Following up identified actions.

Position Description

Key tasks:

1. Represent Western Australian consumers at the NMHCCF;
2. Articulate contemporary consumer perspectives applying critical and objective thinking, and using system advocacy skills in a national policy development context;
3. Maintain connection with and be actively involved in the key networks of consumer representatives in Western Australia;
4. Provide a conduit for information between the NMHCCF and the Mental Health Commission and relevant consumer state based networks including but not limited to CoMHWA, Carers WA, Helping Minds and Mental Health Matters 2, using NMHCCF identified reporting processes;
5. Maintain regular contact with the State Liaison Officer; and
6. Fulfil duties of NMHCCF members as outlined in the Terms of Reference for the NMHCCF and the NMHCCF [Operating Guidelines](#).

Reporting and Support

Each NMHCCF member has a responsibility to report back to their organisation or state Liaison Officer about NMHCCF activities, and vice versa.

In Western Australia the state liaison officer is currently Ms Louise Howe, Consumer Advisor, Mental Health Commission. The Mental Health Commission, CoMHWA, Carers WA, Helping Minds and Mental Health Matters 2 meet quarterly with the NMHCCF consumer and carer representatives under the auspices of the WA NMHCCF Communications Group. This is the reporting mechanism for the NMHCCF consumer and carer representatives. This information exchange assists to support and promote the work of the NMHCCF (and its representative members) and informs the NMHCCF and organisations, states and territories about relevant issues.

There is an expectation that the consumer representative will have a mutually beneficial working relationship with the state mental health consumer peak CoMHWA to ensure an informed viewpoint.

The NMHCCF provides some training for its members, including induction training. Further mentoring and support will be provided at a state level as required, through but not limited to, the WA NMHCCF Communications Group.

Remuneration

The NMHCCF remunerates its representatives for NMHCCF related activities. Sitting fees are currently \$429 per day (pro-rated at \$85.80 per hour). Travel, accommodation and out of pocket expenses associated with NMHCCF related activities will be met by the NMHCCF.

In Western Australia payment is offered for the quarterly support meetings in line with the MHC Consumer, Family, Carer and Community Paid Partnership Policy at the Advisor Tier of \$70 per hour for a minimum of three hours.

Tenure

Members are initially appointed for a four year term. Each member's appointment is reviewed by their nominating state organisation after their first four years, and then every two years. There is no maximum length of tenure for NMHCCF representatives.

Selection criteria

1. Demonstrated ability to provide or understanding of contemporary consumer perspectives at a strategic and system advocacy level. For example, demonstrated skills, knowledge and understandings could include:
 - An understanding of the principles of consumer participation in practice;
 - A commitment to being widely informed of and ability to represent consumer experiences beyond one's personal experience;
 - Familiarity with key state or territory and national policy issues in mental health;
 - An ability to effectively provide advice and strategic direction to the NMHCCF on behalf of Western Australian consumers; and

- Problem solving skills, and ability to use own initiative as well as being effective as part of a senior strategic group and willingness to contribute to the goals of the NMHCCF.
- 2. Demonstrated ability to maintain networks with the state consumer mental health groups, organisations, government bodies and their peers.
- 3. Demonstrated leadership and familiarity with system-level concerns necessary to ensure the lived experience is central to policy development and service delivery.
- 4. Well-developed interpersonal skills including the ability to provide constructive input, maintain good working relationships with stakeholders (including NMHCCF members and other stakeholders in the mental health policy development process e.g. government, service providers), listen objectively, negotiate and make reasoned judgements. Demonstrated ability to use these skills to achieve results.
- 5. Willingness to participate in training relevant to the work of the NMHCCF (this training would not be onerous and would be provided through the NMHCCF).
- 6. An understanding of the diversity of the geographic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the Western Australian community, and the impact this has on Western Australian consumers and their families' experiences of mental health challenges.

A letter of support should be provided by a relevant consumer or carer organisations outlining your suitability for the role.

Selection and Application Process

The Selection Panel uses the NMHCCF selection process outlined in their document [A nationally consistent approach for NMHCCF consumer and carer selection and representation](#). Mental health consumers and carers interested in being a Western Australian representative on the NMHCCF should complete the application form, address each of the selection criteria (maximum of 250 words per criteria), and provide a letter of support from a relevant consumer or carer organisation.

A Selection Panel will review and short list the applications, an informal interview may be required. The outcome of applications will be announced by the end of November 2020.

Applications can be sent by:

- Email: engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au , **NMHCCF rep** in the subject line; or
- In person to Louise Howe, Consumer Advisor, Mental Health Commission, Level 1, 1 Nash Street, Perth (Workzone Building, next to Mclver Train Station); or
- Post: Louise Howe, Consumer Advisor, Mental Health Commission, GPO Box X2299, Perth Business Centre, WA, 6847.

For further information please contact Ms Louise Howe on 6553 0425 or by email on engagement@mhc.wa.gov.au

Applications must be received by 5pm, Tuesday, 26 October 2020.